

Tight turns

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Summary: Drabble written after seeing HTTYD2; contains spoilers.

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Hiccup had faced some major changes in his life over the years. First there had been Toothless, and the 180 degree turn in his opinion of dragons. Then there had been Astrid's change in opinion of him (though she assured him it hadn't been a full 180, more like a 90 degree change). Then he'd lost a leg and gone from being useless to the pride of Berk - a definite reversal of opinion.

But this felt like the greatest change he'd ever faced. For his whole life he'd had just his dad, his mother lost so long ago that he often didn't even notice her absence most of the time. Now his father was gone, and he had found his mother.

It wasn't as easy as he'd hoped to make the turn.

At first it was all fine. In the glow of victory and the burn of Stoick's loss, Valka and Hiccup were busy, rushing around repairing Berk and looking after dragons. It wasn't for a few days that they realised they didn't know how to live with one another. What was the etiquette of mother and son, who took what jobs (Gobber did the cooking), and how did you go about filling one another in on twenty years of life?

Some days conversation flowed, talking about dragons and exploring. Stories about Valka and Stoick's lives, tinged with sadness. Tales of Hiccup's adventures with his friends, pride and despair at the risks he'd taken. ("Oh, t'wasn't that risky - remember the time you deliberately got struck by lightning?" "What!?" "Gobber!")

Other days were full of awkward silences, moments when little facts that hadn't seemed noteworthy enough to mention leapt into prominence, like the fact that Hiccup couldn't stand yak milk.

(Gobber would ignore such pauses, regaling the family with all the (embarrassing) stories of Hiccup's childhood. At those times, for all that he buries his face in his hands and begs for silence, Hiccup is indescribably glad that Gobber is part of the family.)

They progressed in fits and starts, some days moving forwards, others almost regressing, gradually learning who they're living with. It's a slow, painful process.

But Hiccup had faith in his ability to make tight turns.

End
file.